



# JANUARY 2011

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

This year, 2011 would be a year to start fresh. **FRESH** for myself. I'm working on a lot with my life. Change doesn't happen over night, it's really impossible. I'm a girl that's been in and out of DYA too many times and it's time for a stop. Because the next road is DOC, the big house with my father. I don't want to be like him. That's the last thing I want to be like, to be like my parents. **No Life!** What they've really shown me, is what not to be! I'm glad for that because I would have never known. I'm honestly bettering myself because I want to show the court that I can be on my own. **INDEPENDENT!!** I don't need meds, doctors, and therapist or any of those other crap. I can make it out there without them. I'm showing myself that I can do it! I'm an adult and I know it won't be easy being an adult but, I'm ready for all the bumpy roads. I've lived through a lot my past 18 years, and I know there's more to come my way.

I'm not giving up. I've realized that life isn't all about fun and games and living for the moments! I've realized that I am not getting any younger and time isn't going to wait up for me.

Like with me being in jail I- I'm not saying that I regret the mistakes that I've done but, I've learned from them. I'm trying my best to get myself out of here but, it's really hard. I have a family that I love out there waiting for me, and my fiancé whom I love most especially. I'm changing to better myself. Being in jail isn't the life for me. I don't regret anything because it only made me need to see what I have to change. There's a lot in me that I have to change and I admit that! But change, as I said, doesn't happen over night. I love my family a lot, only the ones who loves me back, **OF COURSE!** I just gotta change. I'm tired of hurting them. They don't deserve that. It really pains me. I don't want to lose my fiancé, its one reason why I'm changing.

D.P. (female) age: 18



My New Year's Resolution is to stay out of DYA and start a new and better life. I want to make my grandparents proud. This is my third time being in here (DYA) and it breaks their hearts to see me like this. So I just want to say, I'm sorry and I'll make it up to you. This year I'll prove to you what a great job you did raising me.

B.D.K. (female) age:16



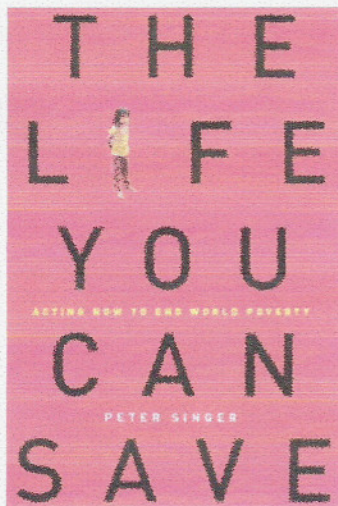
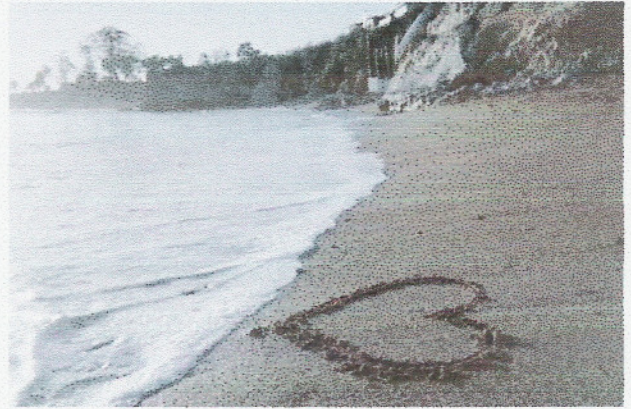
# OPEN TOPIC

My open topic is: Why is it that everywhere anyone goes there is trouble? Why can't we all have a safe spot? Like for me, my safe spot is either the beach or the river. The reason why the beach is because its calm but a bit rough. I like the way the waves crash into the corals and the way the sunset looks. The reason the river is because the way the water flows and the way the waterfall looks is just so amazing and so calm. I wish life would always be that way: calming, soothing, and relaxing but come on let's get to the reality about life as the way we know it best. Like everything

else it has to die sometime. Like every flower in the beginning it's beautiful, just like life it's beautiful while your young but as you get older things start to change and the next thing you know your 6ft under ground. That's the reality of life. Life is just a circle, it's a circle because it's like a cycle a cycle of life as one dies one is born. So what I am really trying to say is no matter where you're at and trouble comes to you just try to picture your safe spot and walk away. But like sometimes

like some one said "you just gotta knock some sense into people." So pick your head up high and keep wishing for the best

K.O. (female) age: 17



## UPON THIN LINES

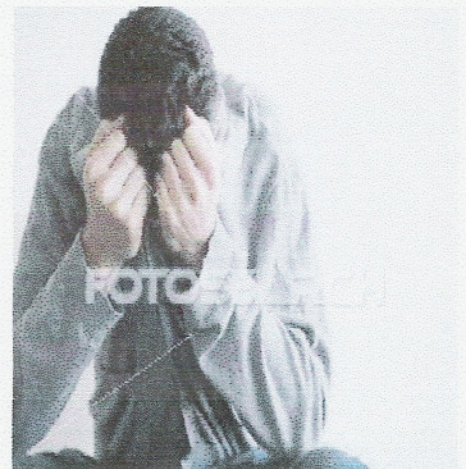
I know I've walked upon thin lines that have thrown me off balance and me stumbling most of my way... but every night now I ask Jesus Christ for his guidance as I bow my head and pray. Every day's a struggle, trying to keep my sanity when life starts to feel like it's crashing and the people who don't understand me the most, is family... but I'm determined now, because strength and courage is what I've grown and I'm going to keep growing and I'm going to keep my stand... even if it means standing alone.

R.C. (female)

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

I don't know what's wrong with me.  
Everything I did, I couldn't believe.  
It was like plenty of people in the sea  
Everything I said wasn't meant to be.  
Also the things I see around me,  
People couldn't see it behind me.  
People I know wants to go home where  
They belong. From this day on I regret being in this  
Place without my family. As I was  
Growing up I never realized that everything I did was affecting  
Those around me. This is all I got to say  
About everybody. Thank you.

M.M. (male) age: 16



bn330051 www.fotosearch.com



# LOVE



A lot of older people say, "you're too young to know what love is" and maybe they're right. But in what I've experienced, I know a thing or two about the subject. For me personally, I think love is when the person you're with kisses you and he or she doesn't only kiss your lips but, kisses your heart as well. Or when they whisper, "I love you". They don't say it to your ears but to your soul. When you look into their eyes and you don't only see beauty, you see deep into their soul. You see peace, joy, love, happiness, and not an ounce of worry or doubt. When you lie down together, you think not only "wow, what a beautiful person". You think, "how could I be so lucky, what did I do for this blessing, and how you

would swim across an ocean full of broken glass, walk across the hottest desert and go through hell just as long they're waiting on the other side for you." And even the thought of being apart hurts. If they ever had something bad happen to them, you would will yourself to die because life without them would be too unbearable. So, yeah, I know a thing or two about love, and no, I'm not too young.

(B.B 18year old, male)

## "The Miracle of Hope"

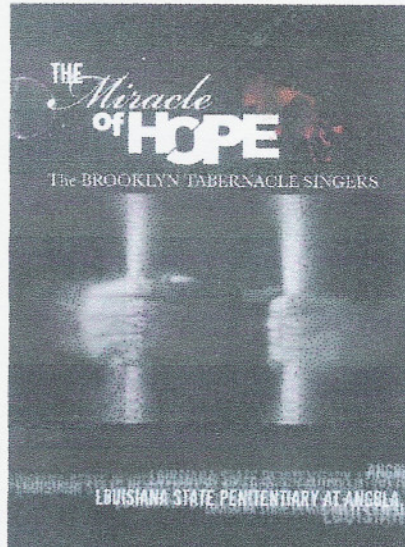
Louisiana state penitentiary (Angola).

This movie gives me a good reason to have hope.

The movie shows me how miracles really happen. I see a lot of murderers who decided to change through God,. What hits me the most is that I saw a man who spent 52 years in Angola who really changed through God. He wanted to die but, then he found Jesus through church.

That's what hits my heart. No matter what you do, or what you are, through him you succeed. It inspires me to see how prisoners who did worst crimes than mine really changed their lives. It is a really good movie, It gives me a reason to start changing now. What am I waiting for? I don't need to be like them to change, I can start now. I learned a lot of things from this movie, I surely agree with it. The title is just right. It's good for me and I'm sure its good for the rest.

17, Male (H.S.)



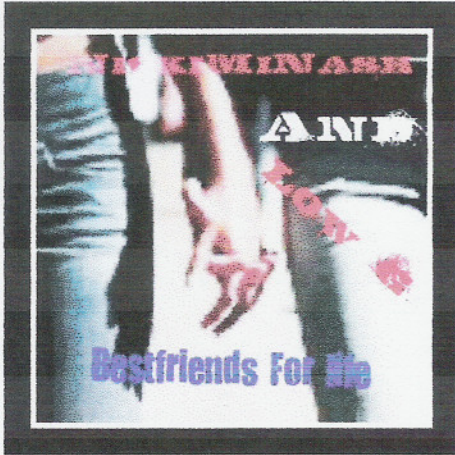
This movie is about people who have thought they lost their lives and everything else. It's about people being locked up away for a crime they've done. They all have a life sentence. They all talked about how hard it was to stay focus in life. They said there will always be tough times and you just got to go through them in this life we all live. They mentioned how there new life started and how they've changed through god's mercy, love, forgiveness.

They all sound like God is working through them. I think that! God has made there testimonies real and powerful. They all talked about how people think about God like if he's real. They all said there was a time in their lives that they've called for God's help and God heard them. They all tried before living without God in their lives. Now their lives are all about living with God because he's gave them peace. Something they all been trying to find since they've been locked up. Now they continue to share and learn about God's strength and power. There's always a purpose in life even though you've messed things up. They all shared with us that God has never reminded them about their past only about their future.

Z.L (16 years Old).



# Lo & Nash\*



So we made a promise not to go back to the pen.  
 But, then we messed up & now we're here again.  
 At least we got each other for love & support.  
 We just gotta hang tough until we go to court.  
 We don't know what's going down on that day,  
 All we can do is look up to the Lord & pray.  
 We'll hold each other down through it all  
 & when we're free again, we'll let the good times roll.  
 We're gonna rise up onto our feet again  
 & we ain't giving up til' we make it to the end.  
 We won't lose hope, we'll keep our heads up high.  
 Cause we're sisters & we roll together. **RIDE OR DIE!**

(L.S.A.) 18, Female.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My new year's resolution is to accomplish almost everything in my life now that I am 18 years old. I've been going in and out of D.Y.A and it's getting to old now. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> violation, & I've come to realize so much. It's time to start and begin a new life for me. The partying and games are done. I've had my teenage fun and I'm ready to begin my career. Yes I know it's a little bit too late to get started back into my education but, I will succeed even though its probably going to take time. Then from there I would like to go to college & get a good job. God has made me realize that I do need him in my life and without him I really don't know where in the hell I would be. I thank also my parents Jenny Manibusan and Carlos Herrera for lifting me up and always being there for me even though I messed up big time in their lives. I know they've struggled because of my stupidity. I will make my family and the Lord proud of me. I would like to show the world a different me, not the same old "Nasha" that I was. Its' no more partying and taking my life for granted any more because I know the booze is always going to be there and I can wait till I'm at the legal age. If my friends are truly my friends then they will still be there for me in the end. I am a changed person thanks to the people that lifted me up and saved me from who knows what.

I. M. Female, 18





## A POEM FOR HIM

When you're around, my heart pounds.  
 When you're near, I feel a great deal of fear.  
 You're the second person I'm actually falling for,  
 No matter if you're a dork.  
 You make me feel so amazing inside  
 and it's something I can't deny.  
 I asked God to send me an angel  
 But, instead he gave me someone to love.  
 Now that I have you, I want to spend my last breath,  
 last minute, last second, and hour with you.  
 If I do, I'll know I died near the man.  
 I love Mr. Fluffy.

17, Female K.O.



## FAMILY



Today, I finally realized something when they called revelry. I realized that life here in Cottage really isn't for me. Yeah I have my friends and support but, really they aren't always going to be here. The staffs are eventually going to retire and the clients are eventually going to get released. However, it isn't my fault for staying here this long. I could have been out but, I have no where to go. I wish a nice family would adopt me and I'll live happily ever after but, let's get real here. There are no happy endings and there are no nice families. Everyone's life is corrupted and no family would adopt a child who's going to be legal. So, I'll end it here but really, I wish I could have OUT on this whole cottage thing!

17, Female K.O



# TASH'S CREED

Believe in God. It is hard to explain why I believe in God. It is just something I know in my heart.

I Believe miracles can happen. I have seen them happen and I know people who got their miracles.

I Believe in Heaven and Hell. I trust in God's promise.

I Believe in entrusting my entire life to God. Whatever happens he will always be with me.

I Believe in the power of love and healing. I know that it is possible to be healed and that love conquers all.

I Believe in forgiving one another. It is what is required for asking God's forgiveness and it is the Christian thing to do.

I Believe that everyone on earth has a purpose. God wouldn't have created us if he didn't love us or think we couldn't make the world a better place.

I Believe that everything happens for a reason. Accidents do happen but nothing happens by mere accident. There must be a purpose; though it may be hidden for the moment, little by little it will be revealed.

I Believe that we should love our neighbor as we do ourselves. That's why it is called the Golden Rule because it is true.

I Believe that there is good in everyone. I refuse to believe that a person has only bad in him. Since we are all created by God, we all have some good in us. In the end, the good will triumph over the bad.

Written by:  
Natasha L.G. Perez